

CS3300 Introduction to Software Engineering

# Lecture 16: Black-Box Testing

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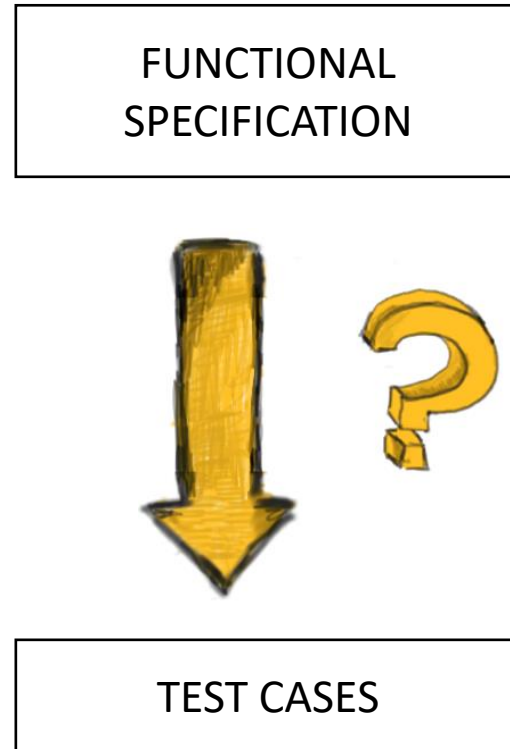
# Black- Box Testing



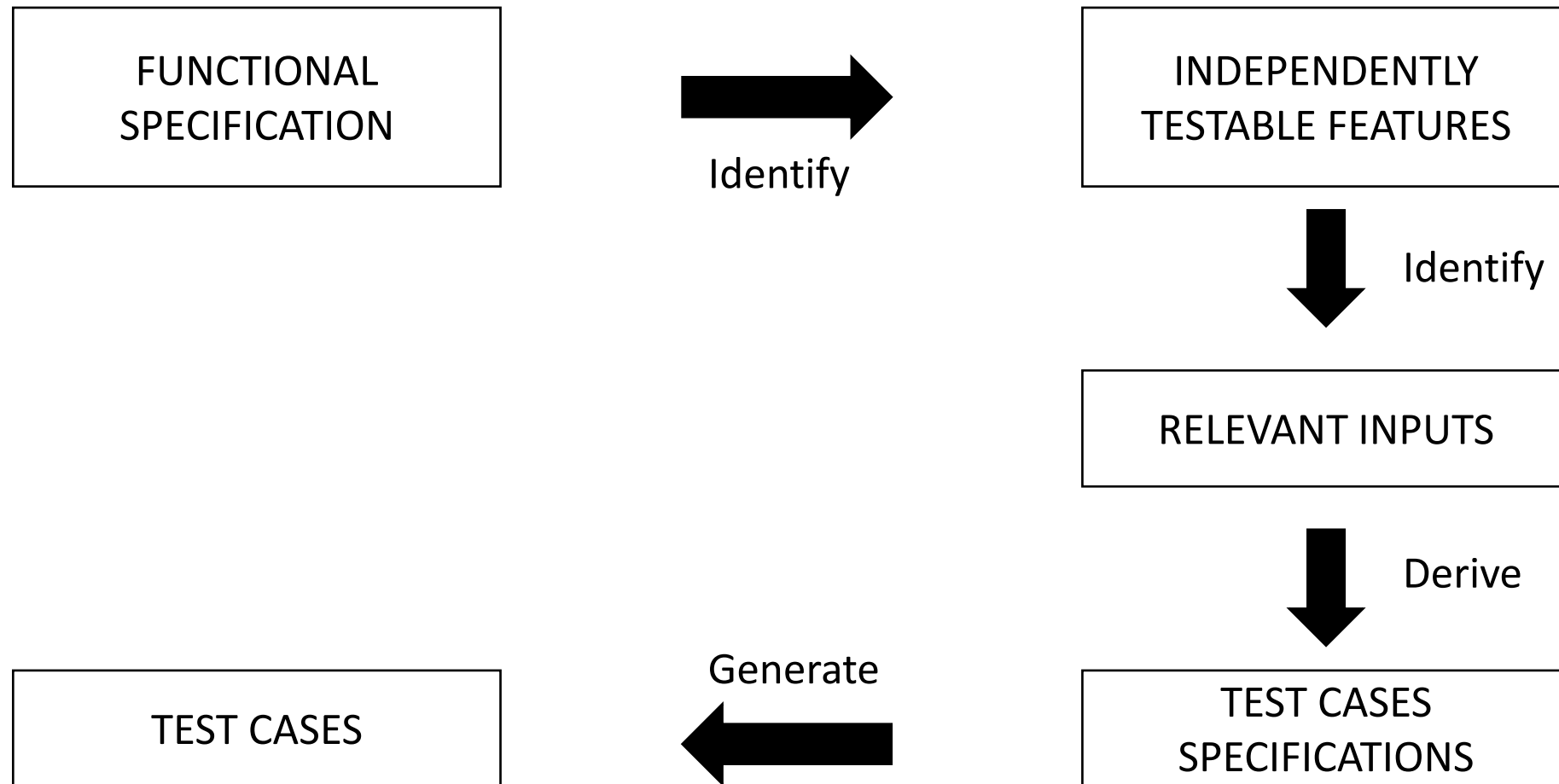
## Advantages

- Focus on the domain
- No need for the code
  - Early test design
  - Prevents the highly occurring scenario of no-time-for-testing
- Catches logic defects
- Applicable at all granularity levels

# From Specifications to Test Cases

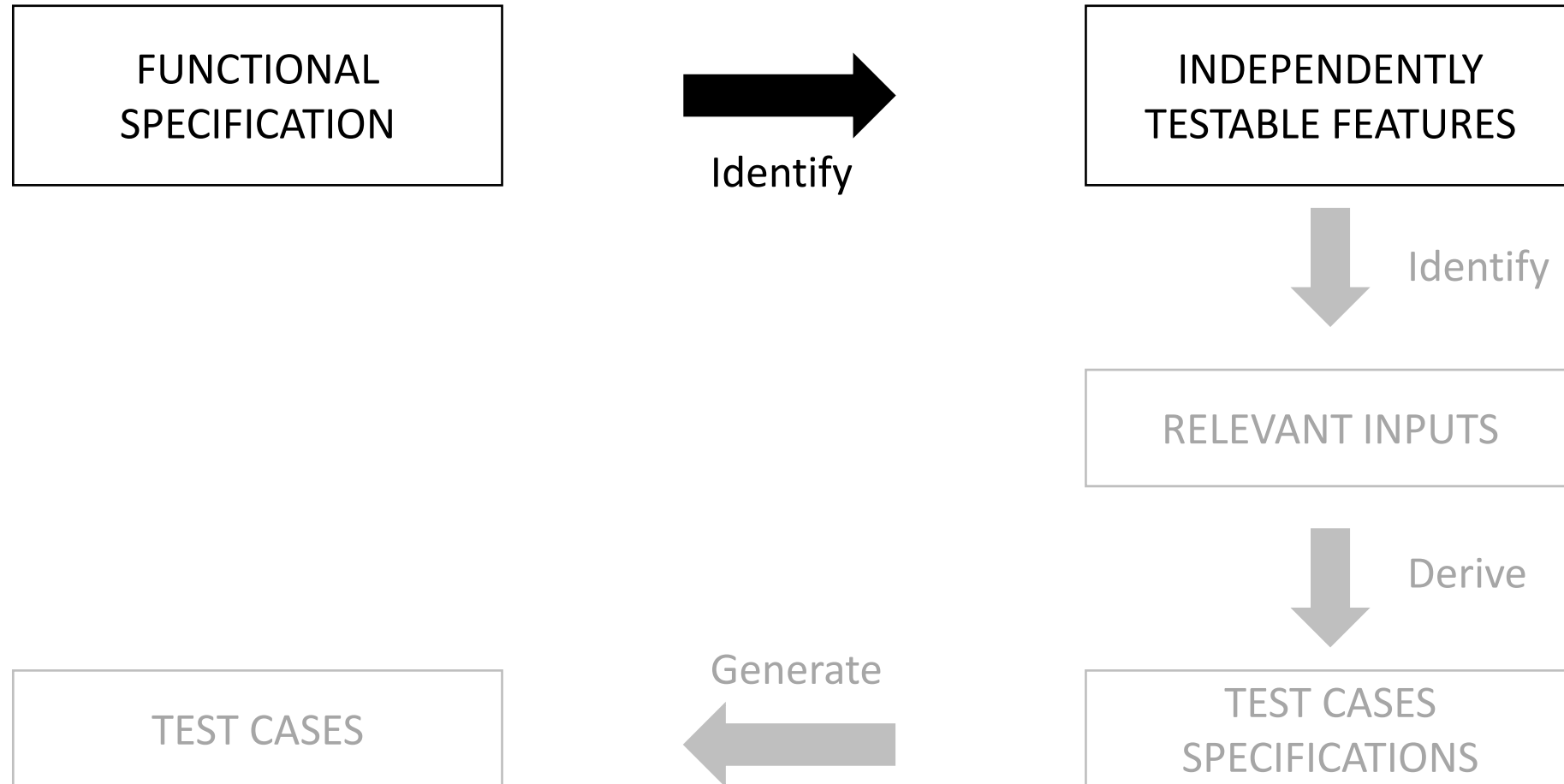


# A systematic Functional-Testing Approach



Decoupling; Automated Sub-tasks; Monitor testing process

# A systematic Functional-Testing Approach



# Identifying Testable Features



```
printSum (int a, int b)
```

How many independently testable features do we have here?

1

2

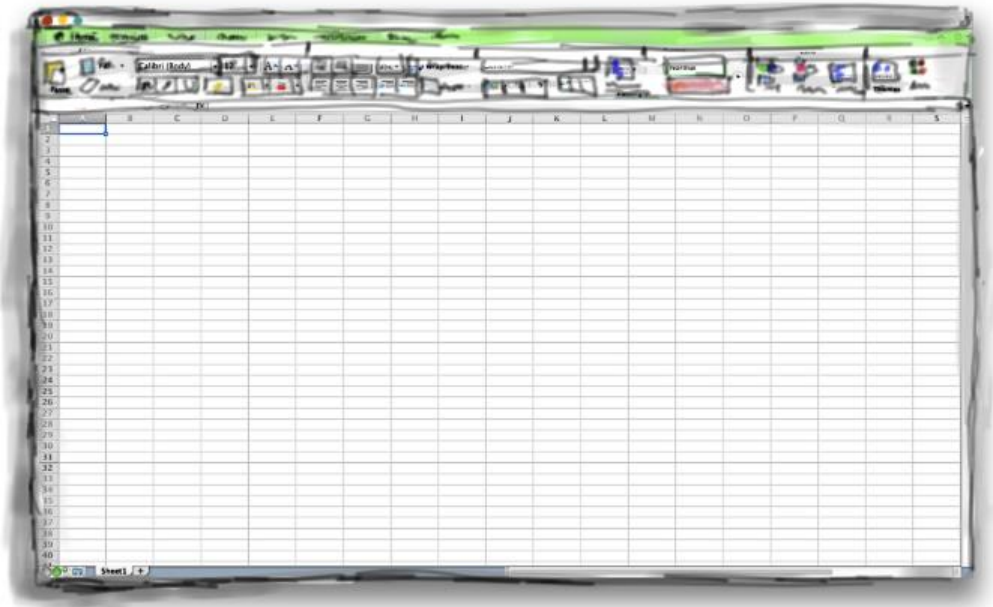
3

4

# Identifying Testable Features



Identify 3 possible independently testable features for a spreadsheet

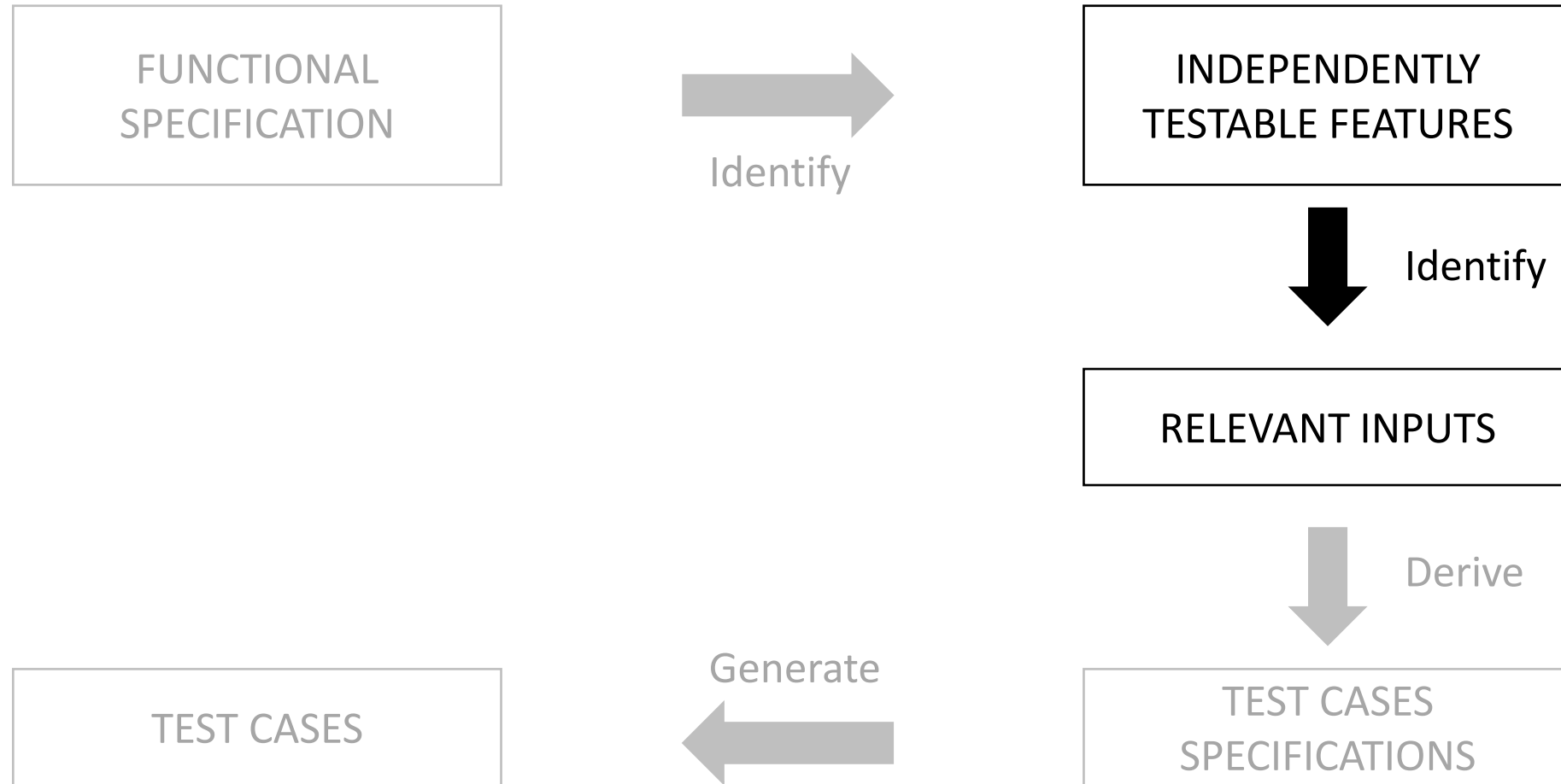


[ Statistical Functions ]

[ Cell Merging ]

[ Chart creation ]

# A systematic Functional-Testing Approach





# Test Data Selection



How to select meaningful set of inputs and corresponding outputs?

Powerful machines, why not exhaustive search?

# Straw-Man Idea: Exhaustive Testing!



How long would it take to exhaustively test the function `printSum(int a, int b)`?

$$2^{32} * 2^{32} = 2^{64} \approx 10^{19} \text{ tests}$$

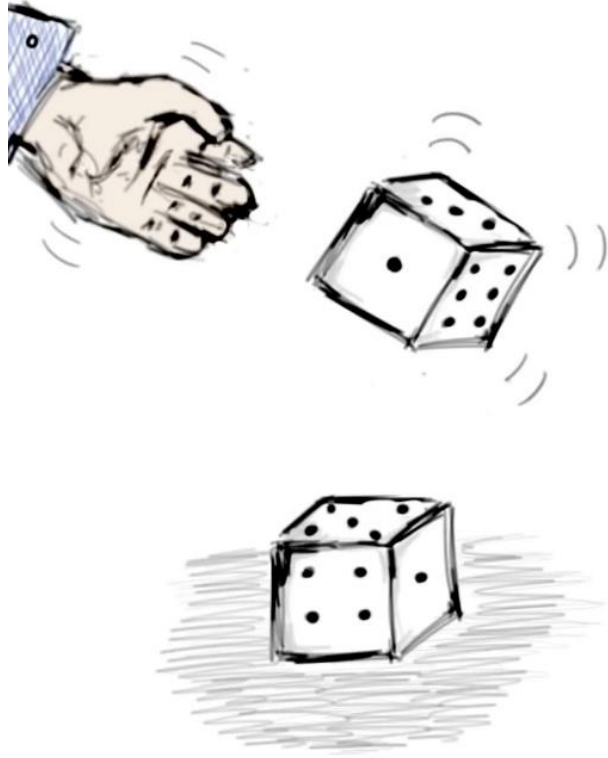
1 test per nanosecond

$10^9$  tests per second

$10^{10}$  seconds overall

**$\sim 600$  years**

# Random Testing



## Advantages

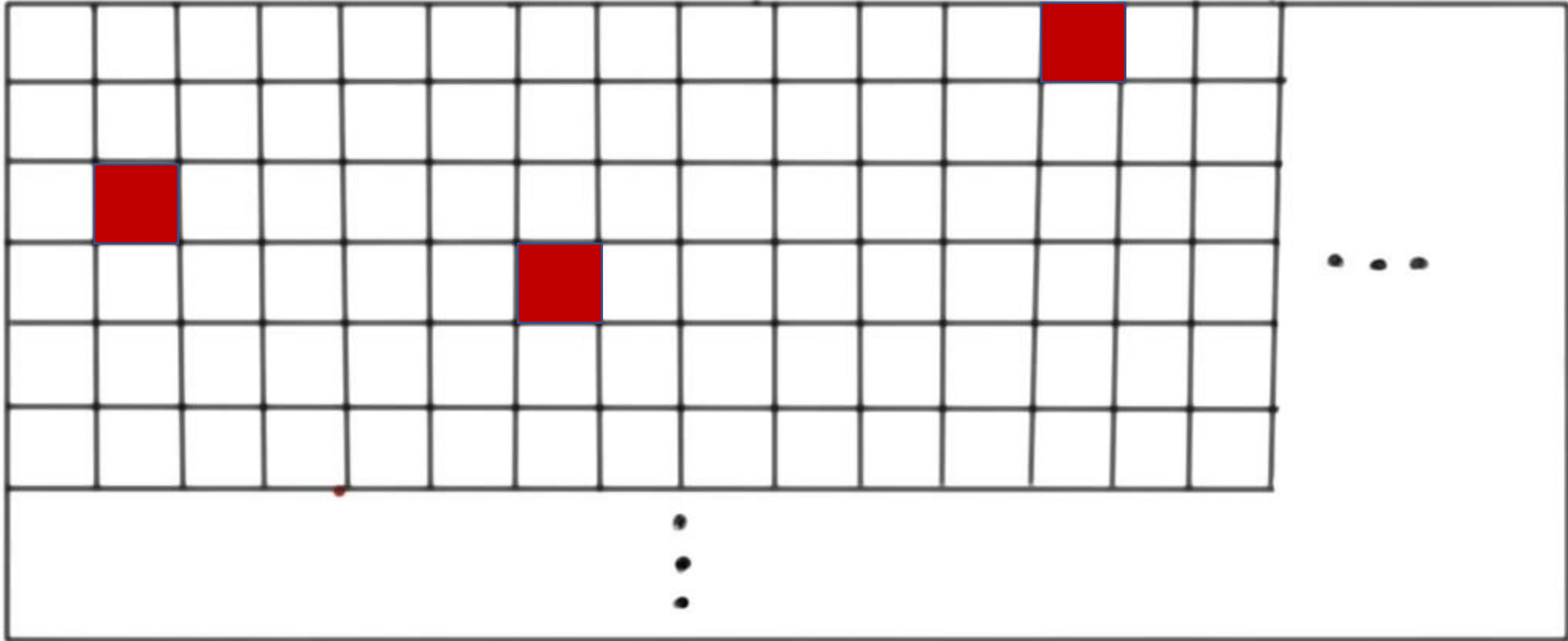
- Pick inputs uniformly
- All inputs considered equal
- No designer bias (developer may develop code based on an assumption, test cases may also be biased)

# So why not random?

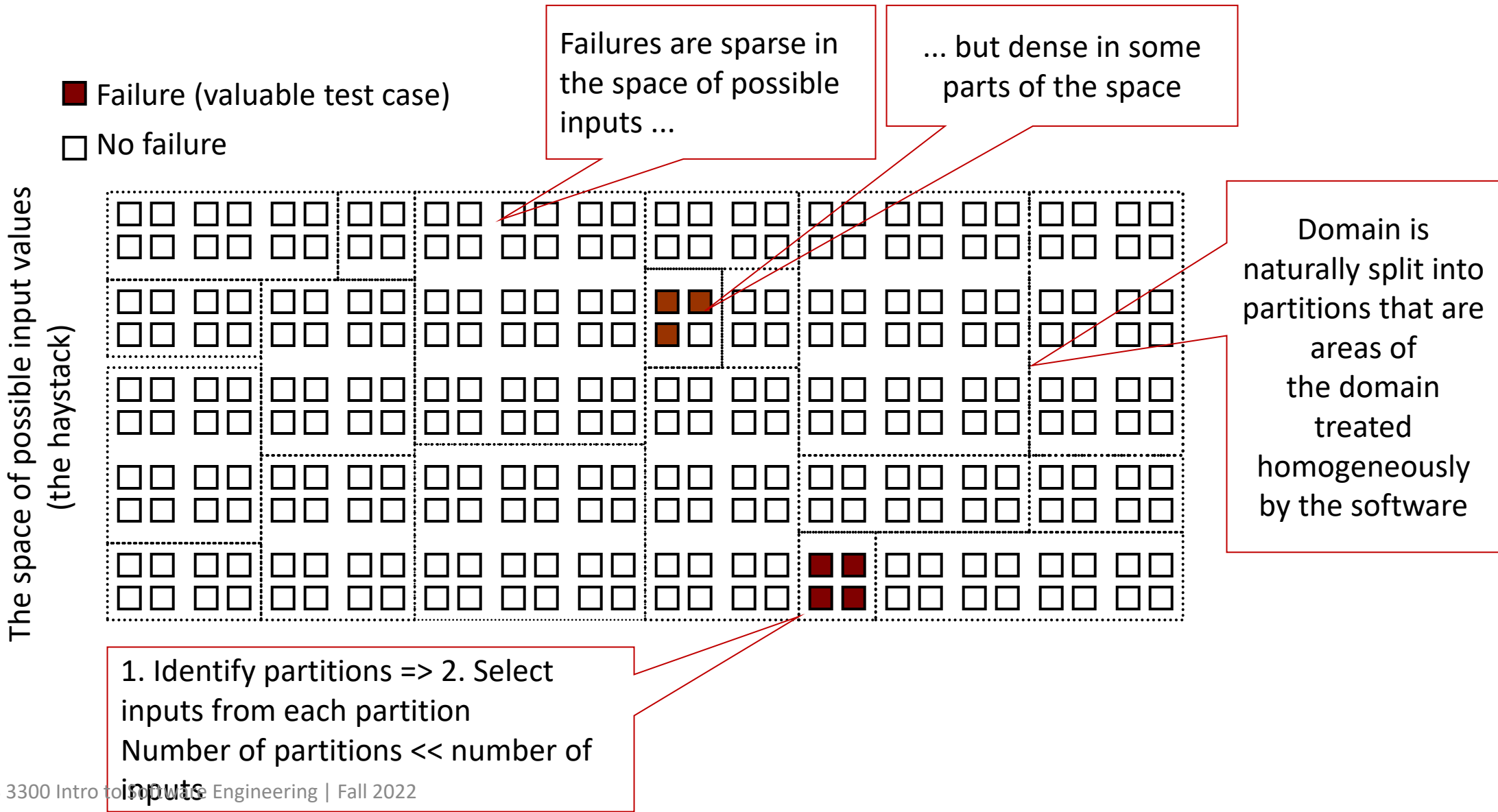


Same as finding many needles in a haystack

# So why not random?



# Systematic Partition Testing



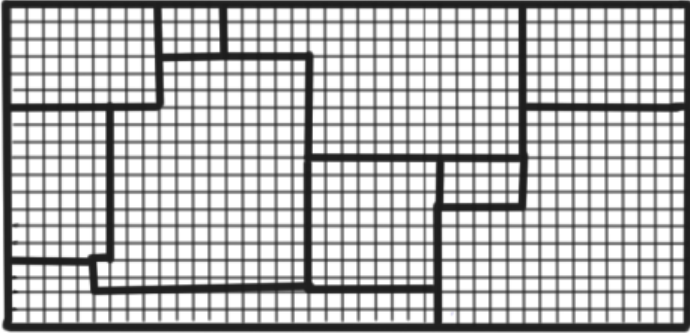
# Example

split (string Str, int Size)

## 1. Identify partitions:

- Size < 0 (Designer bias might let you not pick this partition)
- Size = 0
- Size > 0
- Str with length < Size
- Str with length in [Size, Size\*2]
- Str with length > Size\*2
- ...

# Boundary Values



2. Select **interesting** Inputs from each partition

Basic Idea: Errors tend to occur at the boundary of a sub-domain

=> Select inputs at these boundaries



# Example

split (string Str, int Size)

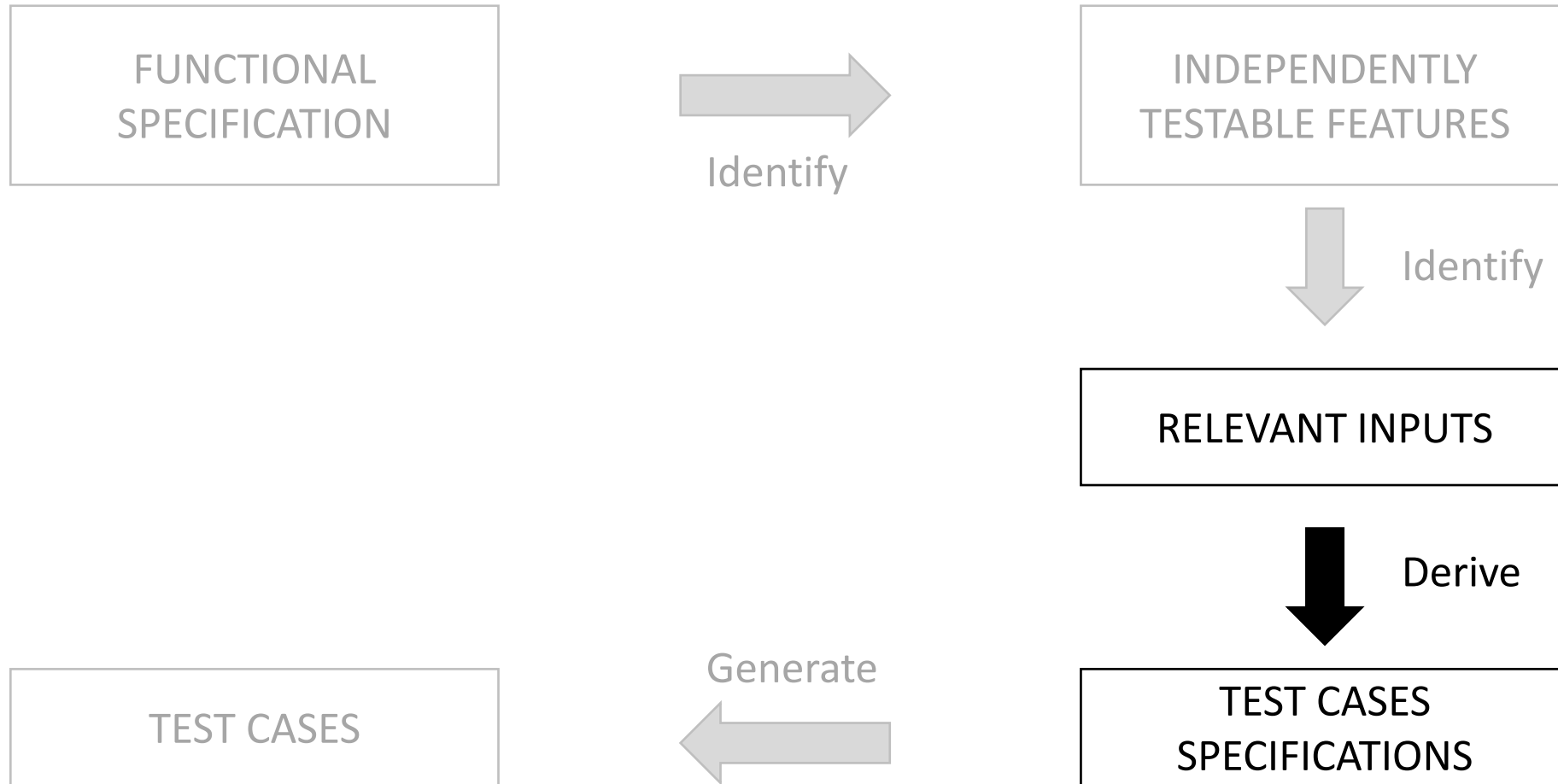
Some possible partitions:

- Size < 0
- Size = 0
- Size > 0
- Str with length < Size
- Str with length in [Size, Size\*2]
- Str with length > Size\*2

Some possible inputs:

- Size = -1
- Size = 1
- Size = MAXINT
- Str with length = Size- 1
- Str with length = Size
- ...

# A systematic Functional-Testing Approach



# Example

split (string Str, int Size)

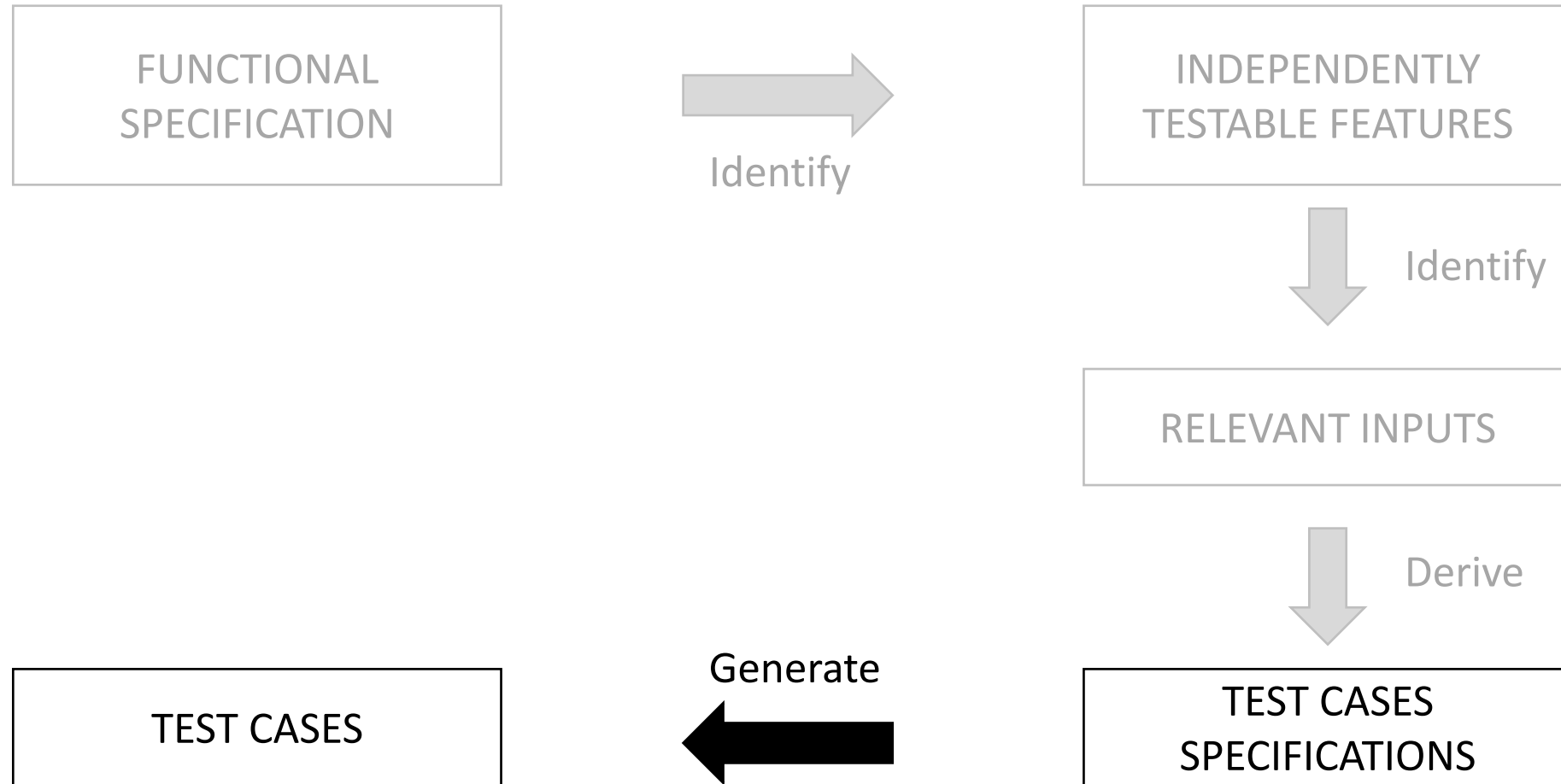
Some possible inputs:

- Size = -1
- Size = 1
- Size = MAXINT
- Str with length = Size- 1
- Str with length = Size
- ...

Test Case Specifications: (combine input values)

- ~~Size = -1, Str with length = -2~~
- ~~Size = -1, Str with length = -1~~
- Size = 1, Str with length = 0
- Size = 1, Str with length = 1
- ...

# A systematic Functional-Testing Approach



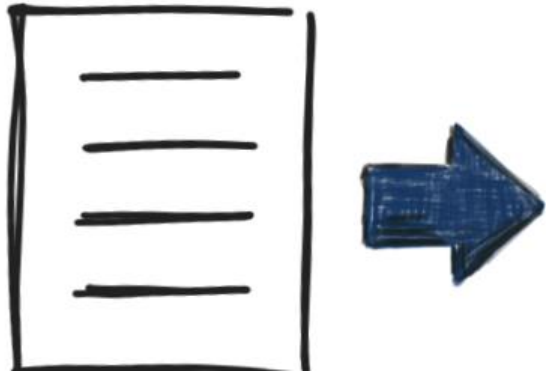
# A Specific Functional Testing Black-Box Approach

## The Category-Partition Method

[Ostrand & Balcer, CACM, June 1988]



# The Category-Partition Method



1. Identify independently testable features
2. Identify Categories
3. Partition Categories into choices
4. Identify constraints among choices
5. Produce/Evaluate test case specifications
6. Generate test cases from test case specifications



Test Cases

# Identify Categories

Characteristics of each input element

`split (string Str, int Size)`

Input Str

- Length
- Content

Input Size

- value

# Partition Categories into choices

Interesting cases (subdomains) – boundary values

split (string Str, int Size)

Input Str

- Length
  - 0
  - Size-1
- Content
  - Only Spaces
  - Special characters

Input Size

- Value
  - 0
  - >0
  - <0
  - MAXINT
  - ...



# Identify Constraints among choices

To Eliminate meaningless combinations & To reduce number of test cases

Three types: PROPERTY---- IF, ERROR, SINGLE

## Input Str

- Length
  - 0            PROPERTY zerovalue
- Content
  - Special characters    If !zerovalue

## Input Size

- Value
  - <0            ERROR
  - MAXINT        SINGLE

# Produce And Evaluate Test Case Specifications

**Can be automated**

Produces test frames

Example (specify the characteristic of the inputs for that test)

Test frame #45

Input Str

length: size -1

content: special characters

Input Size

value: >0

Produce and evaluate test case specification

-how many test frames?

-add additional constraints to reduce the number if required

# Generate Test Cases from Test Case Specification

Simple Instantiation of frames

Final result: Set of concrete tests

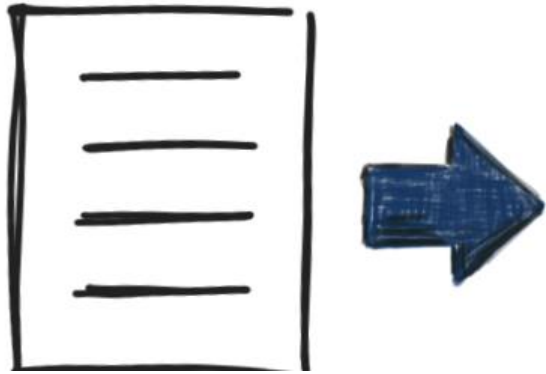
Example (specify the characteristic of the inputs for that test)

Test case #45

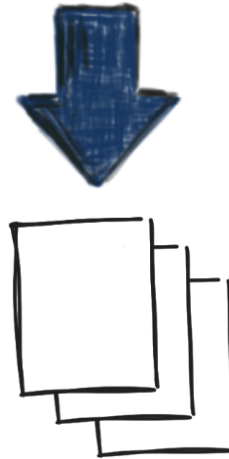
Str = "ABCC!\n\t"

Size = 10

# The Category-Partition Method



1. Identify independently testable features
2. Identify Categories
3. Partition Categories into choices
4. Identify constraints among choices
5. Produce/Evaluate test case specifications
6. Generate test cases from test case specifications



Test Cases

# DEMO TIME

- Use category partition to generate test frames from a specification file (with categories, partitions, and constraints)
- Tool called TSLgenerator is used: Developed by team at UC Irvine, Oregon State, and Georgia Tech
- Download from: <https://github.com/alexorso/tslgenerator/tree/master/Binaries>
- run the code from command prompt: **./TSLgenerator-win8.exe**
- For help: **./TSLgenerator-win8.exe -manpage**
- To get number of test cases and write the test frames against your specification file:  
**./TSLgenerator-win8.exe -c filename**

Next Class:

A Model Based Black-Box Testing Approach =>  
E.g. Finite State Machine

White-Box Testing